

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

### SITUATION REPORT # 28

1230 Hours November 9, 2005

*New Information in Bold Italics*

*Next Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, November 14, 2005, 0930 hours  
Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily*

### SUMMARY

*The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions. Contingency plans are in place for these actions to continue through November 30, 2005.*

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

**State of Emergency:** On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

### WEATHER

**Forecast:** Southwest VA: Hazardous Weather Outlook: *A cold front will move across the region late today bringing scattered showers and thunderstorms late this afternoon and this evening. Some of these thunderstorms could become severe with damaging winds and large hail possible.*  
*Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 4pm. Partly cloudy, with a high around 74. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.*  
*Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 3am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. West wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.*  
*Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 51. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.*  
*Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 28. West wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.*  
*Veteran's Day: Mostly sunny, with a high around 53. Calm wind.*  
*Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 35.*  
*Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.*  
*Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43.*  
*Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 64.*  
*Sunday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low near 45.*

## OPERATIONS SECTION

**Local Liaison:** VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is available as needed.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)  
The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.

**ESF 8 – Health & Medical:** Virginia Department of Health (VDH)  
Dr. Sue Cantrell is the State point of contact. **VDH continues to monitor food service establishment's compliance with plans as well as test results of temporary water facilities.**  
**VDH is compiling reports on current and future potential water sources such as the Bullet Mine. Water test results are being compiled into a report. Well at Mt. Empire Community College and two wells in Appalachia are to be tested once pumps are activated.**

**ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:** Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)  
The VNG continues the blivet support mission. Eleven blivets are in place. Twelve soldiers remain on mission. **No additional personnel needed at this time.**

### HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
DEQ continues to work with the town of Big Stone Gap to monitor water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis. **DEQ is requesting loss water report from Big Stone Gap to document results of leak detection and stoppage. These efforts need to continue as water supplies for other sources are diminishing.**

### INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

**ESF 1 – Transportation:** Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area and messages are being changed frequently so members of the community do not become complacent. A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water

### LOGISTICS SECTION

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:** Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)  
The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies. VEOC requested a more detailed account of actual daily water output from all water sources being utilized. This accounting will be shared with all interested parties. VEOC requested Incident Management Team develop timeline for blivet management.

### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Current Powell River stream flow is **14 cubic feet per second**. Big Cherry Dam valve is slightly opened to maintain fish and wildlife and very little water is being drawn from the reservoir as a water source. **Plans are being made to winterize and otherwise protect temporary above ground water facilities particularly those lying within VDOT's Right-of-Way.** Local Incident Management Team continues to develop long range plans including evaluating alternate water sources. **Norton and Appalachia water supplies continue to be monitored due to decreasing water levels.**

**Powell River Cave #1 is producing approximately 400,000 gallons of water per day and is usually pumped down by 3pm. A team from Radford will enter the cave in the near future to determine volume and re-charge capability. The final pump is on line to supply water to the Cracker Neck area.**

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